

From: Gary Sparks
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Anti trust

Sir or Madam

I have watched the proceedings against Microsoft with wonder and disbelief. Punishing a company that has created one of the most innovative and beneficial products in the history of man for protecting and promoting its product is amazing to me.

This is not a case of "ma bell" having all of the land facilities locked up forcing the consumer to use their services and products but of a company in a new industry that has a significant head start. They have every right to protect their market share as well as keeping the "formula" safe and intact for their operating system. There are truly other alternatives for consumers who wish not to use their products but the consumer has made the overwhelming choice to use the superior product.

This case reeks of special interest and of politicians again looking for the handout at election time. Internet and wordprocessing technology is a gold mine that many would like to reap the benefits of but at the expense of a company that has done the due diligence and brought forward a product that appeals to consumers, businesses and yes even Governments.

Don't punish a company for protecting and promoting a product that thru time has proven to be a valuable component of daily life throughout the world and dig a little deeper into your "soul" and do what is right. Free trade and enterprise is based upon the "right" of a company to grow and flourish. This industry has more than enough room for someone to come up with a better widget but until that time don't hamstring someone for protecting their own. I wish someone in this instance would tell their opponents that they need to quit crying and make that next earth shattering step into the 21st century and create a operating system that will shake up the whole computer industry but don't snip at the heels of those who were brave enough to try.

Thank you very much
Gary Sparks